

**St. Catherine of Genoa
Stewardship Commission Meeting
November 11, 2008**

Those present included Fr. Tim Seigel, Jill Hansen, Linda Dolder, Wendy Engles, Beth Gehringer, Julie Carlson and Jason Flesher.

Father opened the meeting with a prayer service that included the readings for this Sunday.

We discussed Chapter 9 and 13 of "Stewardship-A Parish Handbook." Chapter Nine introduced some of the myths and misunderstandings of the stewardship of treasure. Not much about the stewardship of treasure is incorporated into theology and formation programs of Catholic leaders. Because of this many priests have difficulty speaking about money. An interesting discussion ensued about priests' lifestyles (living in a comfortable rectory, new car, vacations, health coverage, etc.) and because of this lifestyle the parish priest may be uncomfortable asking parishioners for more money.

This chapter also discussed the fact that Catholics give money more often based on a particular need that is presented and not based on the stewardship theme of giving (out of gratitude for God's gifts). We should be giving because of our relationship with God.

Chapter Thirteen mentions the confidentiality of stewardship pledges, how the pledges may be used in parish budgeting and the fact that commitments are not legally binding. We discussed the possibility of using a different treasure pledge card that incorporates removing parishioners name from the amount that is pledged.

2008 Treasure Process

We went over the treasure calendar. The same treasure pledge card will be used. The pictures on the card will be updated to reflect this year's theme. Father will review the treasure pledge card at mass during November 15-16. He'll suggest that parishioners increase their pledge to the next percentage level as shown on the back of the pledge card. This way, parishioners can move up toward the recommended amount over time. This percentage of increase was also mentioned in Father's treasure letter that was sent home. We discussed the process of distributing the pledge cards at mass and picking them back up. We'll handle the procedure the same way as it was last year.

2008 Time and Talent Evaluation

We discussed how everything went with the time and talent portion of the stewardship pledge process. There was a misprint of the date of the pledge weekend on the time and talent pledge card. Next year we'll also want to list appropriate ages children have to be in order to sign up for a particular ministry.

We discussed the next step of tallying the pledges made on all the pledge cards. All those in charge of a ministry need to thank everyone that signed up. They will also provide info on training. We could give out note cards for them to use. We could also create a generic letter for everyone to use and Jill would provide mailing labels. After discussion it was decided that ministry leaders would create their own letters but we would provide parish letterhead. We will ask all ministry leaders to return all letters to Jill. We would then collate them so that a parishioner that signed up for more than one ministry would receive all thank you letters in the same envelope.

The ministry leaders will meet on Thursday, November 13th to receive the time and talent data. Training dates for each ministry will be scheduled at this meeting.

St. Mary's

Not as many items were donated for the winter drive as for the school supply drive. It's probably due to the fact that winter items are more expensive. Some parishioners questioned why the parish was collecting things for another parish when there are people in need in our community. We need to continue to educate parishioners on our commitment to St. Mary's. We are trying to become a stewardship parish. Our relationship with St. Mary's is one way to share what we have as a parish.

Tithe

A special collection was taken to replenish the emergency fund we have. We received \$2,490.00. This money is used for people that come to Father with an emergency need. This fund is separate from the parish tithe that we are trying to establish. We would like to keep \$2,120 in this fund for Father to use to help people. Unfortunately we have heard of some complaints about our use of these funds. It is important that this fund is available for those in need. If some parishioners continue to question this there is not much we can do to change their mind.

We decided to begin setting aside ½% of our collection each week in order to make a monthly donation to a needy charity. The commission decided to make the first donation in December to the Pro-Life Office of the Diocese. The commentator will announce this every week during the month. It will be announced after the intentions and before the offertory song. Think of 3-4 charities we may want to donate to for the next meeting

The next meeting is December 9, 2008.

Father closed with a prayer.

Submitted by
Beth Gehringer, Secretary